



## Iowa Range

statewide

## Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.  
*Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.

## prairie cord grass

*Spartina pectinata*

Kingdom: Plantae  
Division/Phylum: Anthophyta - flowering  
plants

## Features

Prairie cord grass is a perennial herb with smooth, upright stems that may grow to eight feet tall. Its leaves are flat, long, rough along the edges, and up to one-half inch wide. Flowers are in spikes up to six inches long.

## Natural History

Prairie cord grass grows in wet meadows and prairies and along the edges of lakes and marshes. It flowers from June through September. Pioneers covered haystacks and corncribs with cord grass because of its ability to shed water. Settlers used cord grass for fuel when wood was in short supply. Prairie cord grass provides protection for wildlife.

## Habitats

natural lakes and prairie marshes; wet prairies and fens; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs

## Iowa Status

common; native